

Final – “Lost” Myth

- Pandora

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CLS 1600 — Classical Mythology

In a time before the Titan Cronos reigned,
Before the gods of Olympus took over,
A great feud waged between the Primordials,
Earthly Gaia and her heavenly consort Ouranos.
Avenging the unjust imprisonment of her
Hundred arm and one eye sons, she raised up
Cronos to dethrone his father on high. And
From this feud, this brutal castration, the sky's
Blood touched Earth once more
Bringing forth the Erinyes.
Megaera, filled with jealousy.
Tisiphone, yearning for vengeance. And
Alecto, quickest to wrath.

Within the shadows of Erebus where the
Stars above do not shine at night,
Envious Megaera stepped toward Alecto,
Who was the youngest and sororarch of the sisters.
Before noticing her eldest sister, Alecto sat on a crag
Looking into the dark void of Erebus, their domain.
His darkness covered a mountainous range where the
Sisters reside, out of the reach of mortals that would dare
To venture or Olympus, Even Zeus was unaware of these sister's
Whereabouts. The only light in this all surrounding dark
Was the fire of their camp. When Alecto sensed her sister's
Shadow, she rose and turned to her sister saying:

“What orison do you have for me, sister?
If you're asking me to let you lead a hound,
Then I must decline. Your methods have failed
Us before. When that Athenian priestess, Medusa,
Committed sacrilege against her goddess by being
Defiled in her holy place, you were up to the challenge
Of breaking the bones of that witch.”

Megaera frowned at being reminded of her embarrassment.
Clenching her insect like appendages, she replied:

“I have no request for you, and that time was not like
Any other time before. You and Tisiphone were cowards
To not punish that Athenian when she was transformed into
A monstrous thing! I did the honor of doing the task myself.”

“Only to have Medusa look upon you and encase you within
A shell of stone. Tisiphone was kind enough to chisel you out
Of that case, but the pose you were in was seriously hilarious.”

Alecto tried to retain her elegance from being rejuvenated
By holding back her snickering. Megaera's face reddened
With her battle scars as she folded her elongated arms
And turned both her normal and almost blinded eyes 45
Away from her sister. When Alecto's urge to laugh
Subsided, she reached out to her sister's armored shoulder and said:

“In all things that are honest, I will admit you were braver
Than the rest of us. Medusa's gaze didn't just made her 50
An outcast amongst her people. Athena must have thought
Her oath to purity was unjustly turned back on. For any oath
Made to an Olympian must always be kept lest that oath
Breaker suffer from our righteous duty. Yet Athena took
Pity on her priestess. Instead of letting us drive that woman
Of Such beauty to the brink of madness, she transformed 55
That Athenian babe into a hideous serpentine beast, turning
All that look upon her gaze petrified, giving her a chance
To escape from our fury. A rather tactical move
On the part of Zeus' child. Perhaps our other sister and I
Wouldn't have been able to resist losing to ossification, except you.” 60

Hearing the honest words from the black clothed erinys
Did little to soften the tensed Megaera. In the distance,
The sisters looked upon Tisiphone floating in mid air
With her companion Alastor, the winged daimon that shared
The same call. The two agents of vengeance played in the 65
Dark like mortal children under the daylight of Helios
As he would watch both children play and grownups fight
Amongst themselves. This hooded sister then noticed her
Other sisters facing each other. Since the beginning of
Their hounding crusades for justice, Envy and Anger 70
Have always contrasted against one another. These
Two forces differ in strength with Envy strong enough
To bring even Heracles to his knees. But with cruelty,
Anger is incapable of showing mercy. Knowing that
These two forces were at each other's faces yet again, 75
Tisiphone descended from the dark air – and that winged
Daimon disappeared without a trace – saying:

“Sisters, why must you bicker amongst yourselves yet
Again? Did we not emerge from one blood?
Isn't it our duty to be the keepers of honor, to 80
Enforce punishment only on those that sin greatly
Against mortals and gods, to be the bane of such?”

And Alecto answered:

“Yes, our beloved sister. We are of the same blood
That was spilled in the name of retribution. The same 85
Retribution that fell upon the retributor, Cronos, for
Repeating the sins of his father. He thought he could avert
Such fate by devouring his own kin, but Zeus Aegis-Holder
Prevailed against him. He found no reason to fear us,
And for not repeating the sins of his fathers, his rule is 90
The one we shall uphold. No mortal shall go unpunished for
Proving himself unworthy of keeping his word to an
Olympian, or for any crime against his own race.
Recall the murderer of his mother, Orestes?”

And Tisiphone replied: 95

“Yea, What kind of man would even think of slaying the
Woman that bore him from the womb and gave him paps to suck?
That murder was my calling, and so I led the hunt to bring that
Mongrel to misery.”

The green cloaked erinys then laughed, and continued: 100

“It was so much fun listening to his pain and watching his
Lamenting. But just when we almost drove him to insanity,
Athena intervened and with her spear said ‘that’s enough.’”

Tisiphone’s joy turned to unamusement.
She carried on: 105

“She called our pursuit of righteousness one side of an
Argument and wanted to hear the murderer himself speak.
That killer of mothers was then given what mortals call ‘trials’
Where laymen gather to hear what should be private and they
Found him innocent. As if he never committed the crime!” 110

Megaera then replied:

“I had fun too seeing him suffer. Even though he was pardoned by
The vote of common mortals, that cowardly city Athens went
As far to call us ‘Semnai,’ worthy of man’s praise, welcome there.
But we have the means to see the city crumble and wasted. 115
They may pass mortal judgments of what they
Call mercy, but it is only by harsh judgment that true
Justice will be served, for Athena is too kind.”

Then a yellow amber light shattered the dark. The sisters
Turned toward the light, for this meant that either 120
An oath to a god has been made or has been proven
To be a false oath. In the light, a silhouette of a
Man in prayer before Lord Poseidon was shown.
The man then turned his back on the sea god and left.
Alecto then said: 125

“Why does this man walk away from his oath to the
Brother of Lord Zeus? Come sisters, we will infect his
Conscious with all sorts of regret.”

The Erinyes then set out into the light to meet this
Man and punish him with Alecto leading. 130